

IS ALL IN VAIN?
I wonder if in life's hour I find
One single, undimmed hour in mind;
If any happy hour
Has come within a touch of pain;
If one perfect good action,
Or any promised dawn?
We touch a bud with silent grace
Pushing the green leaf from its face,
As fourth new beauties start;
Time this fair bud is perfecting,
We say, then find some evil thing
Has taken out the heart.
No hopes, howe'er they promise fair,
Ever fulfilment's fruitage bear?
Are all our suitings vain?
Must all earth's richest, loveliest things
Reach us with self and broken wings—
Like know but peril and pain?
—Mary W. M'Vear.

Peculiarities of Customers.

"Customers have queer peculiarities," said an old retailer to an interviewer on the St. Louis Greener, and it takes a long apprenticeship to wait on all of them satisfactorily. Now, I know all the failings of my old customers, and I can get along with them without trouble. But let a new clerk tackle one of these, and not knowing the peculiar individuals he has to deal with, he will soon find himself in hot water. So, when I get a new clerk, which rarely happens, for I do not believe in making changes, I go over the list of customers and post him as well as I can how each will have to be treated to get along without trouble.

One speaking of the peculiarities of his customers, they are almost beyond belief. Now, I have an old customer, a woman who will not buy anything of me, but I promptly met him (her) and asked him (her) to call on me. If I did, he (she) would leave the store at once. I lost him (her) once, and he (she) will not come back. I have a customer who will not buy anything of me, but I promptly met him (her) and asked him (her) to call on me. If I did, he (she) would leave the store at once. I lost him (her) once, and he (she) will not come back.

"Another customer is just opposite of this one, and the moment he steps into the store he must be recognized and treated in such a manner as to make him believe his trade is more desirable than that of any one else. Then there is another customer who must taste everything he buys. Butter, cheese, sugar, salt, tobacco, syrup, pepper, cinnamon, ginger, and I almost said coal oil. That man could not more properly buy a bill of goods without sampling each article than he could go to sleep without shutting his eyes. But it is among the women that I find the most peculiar customers, probably because they do more of the buying than the men. Their peculiarities are legion, and life is too short to tell of them. There is the one who is afraid she will be cheated in every purchase she makes, and will insist on some private mark by which she can tell that she gets the particular articles prepared for her. Then there is the one who wants a 'sampling' of this, that, and the other thing to take home and try, in order to see if they will suit the old man. She is almost as bad as the one who wants everything a little under price because she does all her trading with you and does not trade with your competitor across the way, and she does think of giving him a part of her trade. Finally, there is the young husband and wife who have just gone to house-keeping, but their peculiarities are too sacred to be mentioned, and I will spare them. I was there myself once."

Home and Its Queen.

A sweet, happy home is the next best place to heaven. It is the best moralizer and civilizer known among men. When home is gone, all is gone. The Government will go when our homes go. Our home life and family life is the chief cornerstone of this great country of ours. The more we have of this, the better it will be for us as a people. When a woman, a wife, and mother makes a good home, one whose piety is supreme, she is doing the best and greatest thing for her country a woman can do. It is in finally above the ballot box, the hustings, the Senate Chamber, or the House of Representatives.—Home and the remembrance of home is often the last link that binds a prodigal boy's heart to God. Thousands of them have come to themselves while thinking about home. The remembrance of home leads them to say: "I will arise and go to my father's house."

For Ambitious Boys.

A boy is something like a piece of iron, which in its rough state isn't worth much, nor is it of very much use, but the more processes it is put through, the more valuable it becomes. A bar of iron that is only worth \$5 in its natural state is worth \$12 when it is made into horseshoes, and after it goes through the different processes by which it is made into needles, its value is increased to \$350. Made into pen-knife blades it would be worth \$3,000, and into balance springs for watches \$250,000. Just think of that, boys, a piece of iron that is comparatively worthless can be developed into such valuable material!

But the iron has to go through a deal of hammering and beating and rolling and pounding and polishing and so if you are to become useful and educated men, you must go through a long course of study and training. The more time you spend in hard study, the better material you will make. The iron doesn't have to go through half as much to be made into horseshoes as it does to be converted into delicate watch springs, but think how much less valuable it is. Which would you rather be, horseshoe or watch spring? It depends on yourselves. You can become whichever you will. This is your time of preparation for manhood. Don't think that I would have you settle down to hard study all the time without any intervals for fun. Not a bit of it. I like to see boys have a good time and I should be very sorry to have you grow old before your time, but you have ample opportunity for study and play, too, and I don't want you to neglect the former for the sake of the latter.—Christian at Work.

If I Had Only Spoke Him Fair at Last.

The morning after I lectured in Wilkesbarre there was a great colliery explosion. Hundreds of Colliery miners were killed, and their corpses lay at the mouth of the coal mine for recognition. Wives were wringing their hands and children were crying, and a wail of desolation filled the air. Sitting at the mouth by a pale corpse was a young wife. She looked at her husband, but uttered no cry; her eyes were dry. She rocked herself to and fro, her face white with anguish. "Oh, that I had spoke fair to him at the end!" she moaned. "Oh, that he would come to life one minute that I could say, 'Jimmy, forgive me,' but nothing can help me now. Oh, I could bear it all if I had only spoke fair to him in the end!" And then at last the story came. They had been married a year, she and Jim; and they both "had tempers," but Jim was always the first to make up. And this very morning they had had trouble. It began because breakfast was not ready and the fire wouldn't burn, and they had said hard words, both of them. But at the very last, though breakfast had not been fit to eat, Jim turned round at the door and said: "Give me a kiss, lass. You know you love me, and we won't part in all blood."

"No, Jimmy, I don't love you," she said, petulantly. "Give me one kiss, lass," pleaded Jimmy. "No, not one! and now—" and the tears rushed to her eyes. With awful sobs she flung her arms around the corpse. "Dear Jimmy! Darling Jimmy, speak to me now," she moaned. "Say you forgive me." "Do not grieve so hopelessly," I said; "perhaps Jimmy knows what you feel now."

But the mourner's ears were deaf to all comfort, and the wailing cry came again and again. "Oh, if I had only spoke him fair at the last!" It is not an uncommon story, this. We quarrel with those we love, and part, and meet and make up again; and death is merciful, and waits till we are at peace. Yet how possible just such an experience to any one of us who parts with some dear one in anger, or who lets the sun go down upon wrath. But it is always the noblest nature, the most loyal heart, which is the first to cry: "I was wrong; forgive me."—Eli Perkins.

Important Rules.

• Pasted over the desk of the city editor of a Georgia paper are the following instructions: "All brides are lovely, beautiful and accomplished, except they be old and tough widows, and then they are amiable and cultivated. "All merchants who advertise are enterprising, wide awake and a credit to our city. The names of those who do not advertise must not appear in our paper. "All old lawyers are able and worthy of a place on the Supreme bench. Young lawyers are promising and silver tongued. "Conductors on passenger trains are gentlemanly and courteous. "Doctors are eminent. "Farmers are intelligent. "Candidates who put their announcements in our paper are gaining ground every day. Those who do not announce are likely to be defeated. "Under no circumstances must these rules be broken. F. Meddle, town printer and proprietor."—Ar. Traveler.

How to Spoil a Child.

1. Begin young by giving him whatever he craves for.
2. Talk freely before him about his great cleverness.
3. Tell him he is too much for you—that you can do nothing with him.
4. Let him learn to regard his father as a creature of unlimited power, capricious and tyrannical; or a mere whipping machine.
5. Let him learn (from father's example) to despise his mother.
6. Do not care who or what his companions may be.
7. Let him read stories about pirates, Indian fighters, and so on.
8. Let him roam the streets in the evening and go to bed late.
9. Devote yourself to making money, remembering always that wealth is a better legacy for your child than principles in the heart, and habits in the life, and let him have plenty of money to spend. Little Charlie was eating pie while his hungry brother Willie was looking on wistfully. After Charlie finished the last piece he burst out crying. "What are you crying for, Charley?" asked his mother. "Cause there ain't no pie left for poor Willie."

A VALUABLE SEASIDE FARM FOR SALE.

By virtue of a deed of trust, dated August 20th, 1880, from Lewis S. Roberts and wife, the undersigned substituted trustee in said deed, now of record in the clerk's office of Accomack county, will, at the request of Wm. Row (of Jas.), the assignee of said deed of trust, sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on Saturday, September 24th 1887 at 2 o'clock p. m., at "Mappsburg" in said county, all of that valuable tract of land of which said Roberts died, seized and possessed, (except 14 16 100 acres of wood-land, which was conveyed to Wm. F. Fleming by said Roberts' adm'r with the will annexed by deed dated March 29th, 1884, and of record in the clerk's office of said county), situated near "Mappsburg," and bounded as follows, on the N. E. by the lands of William F. Fleming on S. W. by the lands of Francis S. Smith, on S. E. by Machipungo creek and on the N. W., by the said 14 16 100 acres of wood-land of said Fleming and by the lands of the heirs of Sally J. Powell, deceased, containing, by estimation, two hundred and seventy-five acres (275 a.), which is sold in gross and not by the acre.

TERMS OF SALE.

Five per centum of the purchase money will be required in cash on the day of sale, with liberty to the purchaser to pay as much more on that day as he may desire; the residue of the purchase money not so paid, will be divided into three equal instalments, payable one, two and three years, respectively, from the day of sale, with interest from that day, to be secured by the separate bonds of the purchaser, with approved personal security thereto, and the title to be retained as additional security until the whole purchase money is paid; the purchaser is to be let into possession of the said premises, on the 1st day of January, 1888, upon complying with the terms of sale, unless already rented out for the year 1888, in which event, he is to have the rents for said year, but is not to be entitled to any portion of the rents for the present year, and the said property is to be at his risk as soon as bid off to him; and, upon the payment of the whole purchase money, the undersigned substituted trustee will convey the said premises to the purchaser, by deed with special warranty of title, upon the same properly prepared at the purchaser's expense, being tendered to him for execution.

Rarely is such a valuable tract of land offered for sale. It is beautifully situated on Machipungo creek with salt water pasture convenient and abundant, an almost unlimited supply of pine shatters, woods mould, pine and oak timber—and a large two-story dwelling house with suitable outbuildings, is well adapted to trucks and the cereals, about one mile from a steamboat wharf and Mappsburg station on the N. Y., P. & N. R. R., and convenient to schools and churches. For further particulars address JAMES G. NOCK, Substituted Trustee. L. FLOYD NOCK, Attorney.

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